

He lives quietly in Canberra's outer suburbs. He comes and goes a lot. When he is home, he may be seen tending his roses in the front yard. This unobtrusive, quietly spoken man has been privy to some of the world's best-kept secrets for two decades. – 4 Corners, ABC TV 2005

Rod Barton has been at the centre of history, and yet until *4 Corners* made a program about him, few knew of him. Since the first Gulf War in 1991, his unique expertise on weapons of mass destruction has been sought by the CIA, Canberra and the UN.

As one of four weapons inspectors, Barton uncovered Iraq's biological weapons program. Later he became special advisor to Hans Blix and after the 2003 war returned to Iraq to take part in the ill-fated attempt of the "Coalition of the Willing" to locate WMD. Barton is one of very few to be involved in the search for Iraq's WMD from the beginning to the bitter end.

Written with humour and urgency, this is the most authentic and reliable insider's account of UN weapons inspections. It not only provides new insights into key players such as Richard Butler, Hans Blix, Scott Ritter and David Kelly, it also describes the fascinating, and until now largely unknown, world of the weapons inspector. Part-detective, part-scientist and part-communications expert, Barton also tells of political pressure to 'sex up' and spin the evidence by figures ranging from MI6's John Scarlett to shadowy CIA 'advisers'.

The Weapons Detective fills in many of the missing pieces of the WMD puzzle including why the Iraqis admitted in 1995 that they had in fact produced biological weapons, the role of Israeli intelligence in this victory, and the pressures placed by the Americans on Hans Blix in the lead-up to war. There are also riveting accounts of the UN mission to Somalia, the fateful collapse of UNSCOM under Richard Butler, and Barton's growing disgust at US prisoner abuse in Iraq.

The constant political pressure, the ebb and flow of international relations and the vagaries of domestic politics make Barton's story a fascinating, insightful and thrilling read. *The Weapons Detective* is a compelling personal account of an international scandal, told by an unsung Australian hero.

Author Details

Rod Barton first became involved in investigating Iraq's use of chemical weapons in 1983. Following the first Gulf War, the United Nations invited Barton to participate in the first inspection of Iraq. In 1994, Rod Barton joined UNSCOM in New York as a principal investigator. Barton was later invited by Dr Hans Blix to be an adviser to him and his organization, UNMOVIC, in the lead-up to the 2003 Iraq war. In June 2003, the US formed the Iraq Survey Group to hunt for WMD in Iraq. In early December 2003, Barton became the senior specialist advisor to the head of the Group and assisted in the assembling of the ISG's main report.

Rod Barton will be speaking on his forthcoming book, *The Weapons Detective*, in a free public lecture hosted by the Centre for Peace & Conflict Studies at the University of Sydney.

Entry by donation.
RSVP to 02 9351 7686 or
cpacs@arts.usyd.edu.au

Rod Barton is available for interview.
For more information please contact Anna Lensky on +61 3 9654 2000 or
+61 (0) 425 766 780 or anna@blackincbooks.com



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